

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A printing device connecting with a network, said printing device comprising:

a data receiver module that receives a print job, which includes specification of a number of copies to be printed and is transmitted from a device connecting with the network;

a printing device specification module that specifies each of other printing devices connecting with the network as an alternative printing device to which the print job is transferable;

a job transfer module that, when the specified number of copies to be printed is a plural number, transfers a modified print job, which includes setting of a less number of copies than the specified number as a number of copies to be transferred, to at least part of the specified alternative printing devices for printing; and

a copy number management module that manages a total number of copies including a number of copies printed by at least part of the specified alternative printing devices, so as to eventually attain printing of the specified number of copies,

wherein the print job and the modified print job include print data.

Claim 2 (Original): A printing device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said job transfer module repeatedly executes the transfer of the modified print job, when there are still multiple copies to be printed.

Claim 3 (Original): A printing device in accordance with claim 2, wherein the specified alternative printing device has a function of spooling a print job therein, and

said job transfer module does not retransmit the modified print job to the alternative printing device that spools the modified print job transferred thereto, but transmits an execution instruction of the modified print job.

Claim 4 (Original): A printing device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said copy number management module notifies the device, which has transmitted the print job, of a total number of printed copies including the number of copies printed by at least part of the specified alternative printing devices.

Claim 5 (Original): A printing device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the number of copies set in the modified print job is equal to 1.

Claim 6 (Original): A printing device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said printing device specification module retrieves a printing device on the network that is able to execute printing of the print job received by said printing device without any conversion and specifies the retrieved printing device as the alternative printing device.

Claim 7 (Original): A printing device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said printing device specification module specifies a residual operating life with regard to each of the specified alternative printing devices, and

said job transfer module sets the number of copies to be transferred to each of the specified alternative printing devices, based on the specified residual operating life.

Claim 8 (Original): A printing device in accordance with claim 7, wherein said job transfer module increases the number of copies to be transferred to the specified alternative printing device that has a longer residual operating life.

Claim 9 (Original): A printing device in accordance with claim 7, wherein each of the specified alternative printing devices has a preset target time reaching its operating life, and

said job transfer module sets the number of copies to be transferred to each of the specified alternative printing devices by taking into account the target time.

Claim 10 (Original): A printing device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said job transfer module transfers the modified printing job with control information that prohibits further transfer of the modified print job from the specified alternative printing device to another printing device.

Claim 11 (Original): A printing device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said printing device specification module retrieves a printing device on the network that has received either of the print job and the modified print job and excludes the retrieved printing device from specification of the alternative printing device.

Claim 12 (Original): A printing device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said job transfer module, when a print job received from another printing device connecting with the network is transferred to the specified alternative printing device, notifies the another printing device, as a sender of the print job, of specification of the alternative printing device as a transfer destination.

Claim 13 (Original): A printing device in accordance with claim 1, said printing device further comprising:

a tabulated data transmission module that, when said data receiver module receives a print job from a device other than a printing device, generates tabulated data for specifying all printing devices that execute either of the print job and the modified print job, based on a notification from each of the specified alternative printing devices, and transmits the tabulated data to each of the specified alternative printing devices.

Claim 14 (Original): A printing device in accordance with claim 1, said printing device further comprising:

a required time evaluation module that evaluates a time required for execution of the modified print job with regard to each of the other printing devices on the network,

wherein said printing device specification module excludes each of the other printing devices having the required time of not less than a preset level from specification of the alternative printing device.

Claim 15 (Original): A printing device in accordance with claim 1, said printing device further comprising:

a printing execution module that executes printing of the modified print job,

wherein said job transfer module executes the transfer of the modified print job, synchronously with an operation of said printing execution module to read out the modified print job.

Claim 16 (Original): A printing device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said job transfer module comprises:

a divisional transmission sub-module that divides the modified print job into multiple divisional data and transmits the multiple divisional data to the specified alternative printing device; and

a pointer management sub-module that manages a pointer for identifying a data position where transmission of the modified print job is completed, with regard to each of the specified alternative printing devices.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A printing method that causes a printing device connecting with a network to implement printing, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a print job, which includes specification of a number of copies to be printed and is transmitted from a device connecting with the network;

specifying each of other printing devices connecting with the network as an alternative printing device to which the print job is transferable;

when the specified number of copies to be printed is a plural number, transferring a modified print job, which includes setting of a less number of copies than the specified number as a number of copies to be transferred, to at least part of the specified alternative printing devices for printing; and

managing a total number of copies including a number of copies printed by at least part of the specified alternative printing devices, so as to eventually attain printing of the specified number of copies,

wherein the print job and the modified print job include print data.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A computer readable recording medium, in which a computer program for controlling a printing device connecting with a network is recorded, said computer program causes a computer incorporated in said printing device to attain the functions of:

receiving a print job, which includes specification of a number of copies to be printed and is transmitted from a device connecting with the network;

specifying each of other printing devices connecting with the network as an alternative printing device to which the print job is transferable;

when the specified number of copies to be printed is a plural number, transferring a modified print job, which includes setting of a less number of copies than the specified number as a number of copies to be transferred, to at least part of the specified alternative printing devices for printing; and

managing a total number of copies including a number of copies printed by at least part of the specified alternative printing devices, so as to eventually attain printing of the specified number of copies,

wherein the print job and the modified print job include print data.

Claims 19-35 (Canceled).